



Building a New Weemala

Royal Rehab celebrated construction commencement of the New Weemala building for its long term residents, with a ground-breaking ceremony on Tuesday 14 September. The ceremony was attended by the new Federal Liberal Member for Bennelong, John Alexander, and by local Councillor and long time Weemala advocate, Vic Tagg.

In spite of the inclement weather, residents of Weemala attended in force, together with the Families of the Weemala Committee, with president Mick Matthews, pleased to see the commencement of the long awaited facility. The first spade was turned by long time Weemala resident Ron Cowland, who has lived at Weemala for 57 years.

"We are thrilled that finally, we are underway with our redevelopment," the CEO of Royal Rehab Stephen Lowndes said.

"The New Weemala facility will provide a modern and much more home-like environment for our long term residents, and will allow for far easier access and participation in the local community, as well as a much more pleasant living environment."

In recent time, Royal Rehab has experienced significant cuts to its funding from the Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service in regard to its specialist and general rehabilitation services.

Federal Member for Bennelong, John Alexander said, "I recognise the vital need to assist Royal Rehab to remain viable and to keep providing all of the important services to our community and all of New South Wales. As the new Member for Bennelong I aim to work co-operatively with all levels of government to affect significant improvement and achieve real results on these important local issues."

Stephen Lowndes stated "It costs us considerably more to care for the Weemala residents than we receive funding for as it is - we can't continue to exhaust the funds from our land sale to meet the on-going costs of public health services. That's not why the land was sold - it was to meet the costs of building a state of the art rehabilitation centre to replace the old facility that we are forced to operate in, which is not particularly cost efficient at all."

But that's just one consideration of course. The most important is that specialist rehabilitation services are provided with the best research, and the best equipment and the best setting that clients experiencing life-changing acquired disabilities deserve."

Mr Lowndes said that the design and building standard of the new Weemala facility was exceptional, and would set the standard for the rest of the facility when it was built.

Swimming All Year Round



Swimming and going to the beach is a recreational past time enjoyed by many Australians. Recreation Therapy Services are available to support people with a range of abilities to access public pools and the beach all year round.

This enables all interested Weemala and community-based residents to access this leisure pursuit.

April this year marked the commencement of our swimming program at the Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre.

Their accessible facilities and equipment allow people with a variety of physical impairments to access their pools and use their facilities for recreation, therapy and/or relaxation.

In the summer month's swimming is supported by facilitating access to Collaroy and Dee Why. Service users are supported to access the beach and use the beach pools via the support of trained staff, equipment and accessible facilities.

An example of the recreational equipment used to increase access to the beach is the Royal Rehab Beach Wheel Chairs donated by the Primary Club. In the picture above you can see Matt enjoying the sand and surf using a Beach Wheel Chair.

They are designed for people who require assistance to move across

the sand and are ideal to support access to the surf.

If you are interested in gaining access to one of our swimming programs, or would like to volunteer your support, please contact the Recreation Therapy Service on 9808 9619.

Robert Price

New Director Appointed



"Ms Delia Gray has been appointed to replace Dr Phill Morath as the new Director of the Disability Services Directorate, which will now be known as the **Community Services Directorate**. Delia has been with Royal Rehab since August 2001 initially as an Occupational Therapist and since July 2007, as the Director of Outpatient and Community Services. Delia will continue to have overall responsibility for all of Royal Rehab's out-patient services, and all of its home and community based services including the Community Accommodation and Support services, and Weemala. This will help Royal Rehab achieve better integration of its various services across the spectrum, and assist in the delivery of allied health support for community based clients. Delia is also the Director of Allied Health Services at Royal Rehab."

Stephen Lowndes. CEO

The New Weemala Progress Report

ADCO Constructions have advised that over the next few weeks they will continue the basement wall construction, install the services in the ground and commence the form work to the ground floor on Building 1.

The Dincel wall system, which will be used for the basement walls, is being installed and the attached picture provides a view of the progress.



Weemala Christmas Carols
Wednesday 1st December
6.30pm - 8.30pm
Todman Hall

Residents & Families Christmas Party
Tuesday 14 December
11.30am Todman Hall

Elvis is in the Building
Monday
20 December
1.30pm
Todman Hall

